



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 2, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
SB 1569, SD1

RELATING TO TELEWORK.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports bill SB 1569, SD1, which establishes a temporary telework working group, led by the Director of Human Resource Development, to evaluate and report to the legislature regarding specific telework implementation topics prior to the 2024 legislative session. HSEO's testimony is guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

Ground transportation is responsible for about 25 percent of Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions. In order for Hawaii to meet its target of net negative carbon emissions by 2045, Hawaii's transportation sector must transition to zero-emission alternatives. The most climate-friendly and efficient strategy for achieving this goal – more so than low carbon fuels or zero-emission vehicles – is to reduce travel demand.

The Hawaii state government employs over 46,000 people.¹ If implemented effectively, telework has the potential to improve transportation system efficiency, achieve critical greenhouse gas reductions, and make the state more resilient.

¹ https://dhrd.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021_Executive-Branch-Workforce-Profile-Fiscal-Year-Ended-June-30-2021.pdf

Consistent with §196-71 (b) (1) HSEO provides analysis and planning to actively develop and inform policies to achieve clean transportation goals with the legislature and state agencies. §196-71 (b) (2) directs HSEO to support efforts to incorporate energy resiliency and clean transportation to reduce costs and achieve clean energy goals across all public facilities.

HSEO was an early adopter of telework for state agencies at the start of COVID due to HSEO's role as primary and coordinating agency for State Emergency Support Function - 12: Energy in support of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. To maintain effective communication channels between county, state, and federal agencies and industry HSEO moved to isolate key staff to prevent a loss of capability due to exposure to COVID 19. This same ability is critical to all-hazard events when resources may not be able to access a central location but can function remotely. During long duration event such as a catastrophic hurricane the capability of teleworking can reduce the stress on the energy supply chain by mitigating the need to travel in the event of supply shortages. Telework can similarly support all critical response agencies and state and county agencies broadly to maintain capacity during low frequency high impact events while conserving energy resources. The potential for telework to reduce emissions through reductions in traffic congestion, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, and enhanced resiliency have made the policy a focus for HSEO in analyzing and implementing policies to advance the state's energy goals.

Given HSEO's clean transportation mission, experience with telework, and interest in further assessing the potential role of telework in achieving state energy policy goals, we respectfully request SB 1569, SD1, be amended to include HSEO on the telework working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.